GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3235
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2015
Night Landing Facility at Airports in North Eastern States
Biswas Shri Radheshyam

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start night flights on all the airports equipped with night landing equipments in North Eastern States of the country specially from Kumbirgram airport of Silchar for better connectivity and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is any plan for commissioning night landing facilities to the remaining airports which do not have night landing facility and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has any plan to increase the frequency of flights to improve connectivity of remote cities of North Eastern States with rest of the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a): The domestic air services have been deregulated by the Government and the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) issued by the Government. Kumbirgram Airport in Silchar belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF) and is equipped with night landing facilities, however, permission for operationalisation of night flights for civil operations at this airport rests with the IAF.

(b): Presently, the airports at Shillong, Lengpui, Jorhat and Tezpur in the North-Eastern Region (NER) are not equipped with night landing facilities. Out of this, Shillong Airport belongs to AAI, Lengpui Airport belongs to the State Govt. of Mizoram and the other airports are owned by Indian Air Force (IAF). Upgradation of airports including provision of night landing facilities is a continuous process, which is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) depending on the operational requirements at the concerned airport, demand from airlines, technical feasibility,availaibility of land free from all encumbrances,etc.

(c): Government has laid down RDGs with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for remote and regional areas of the country. However, it is upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

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